

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED] 25X1A
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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE

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1. On 10 October 1952, food and commodity prices in the P'yongyang area were as follows:¹

a. Food:

<u>Item</u> ²	<u>Unit of Measurement</u> ³	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Rice (hulled)	1 small mal	1,800
Rice (imported)	1 small mal	1,500
Millet	1 small mal	1,600
Corn	1 small mal	700
Red beans	1 small mal	1,700
Beans	1 small mal	900
Sorghum	1 small mal	1,000
Beef	1 kun	500
Pork	1 kun	800

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Chicken	1 kun	2,000
Noodles	1 bowl	300
Liquor	1 kun	1,300
b. <u>Clothing:</u>		
Silk shirt	1	1,100
Cotton underwear	1 suit	5,000
Socks (high quality)	1 pair	500
Socks (low quality)	1 pair	200
Leather shoes	1 pair	6,000
White rubber shoes (women's)	1 pair	2,700
Black rubber shoes (women's)	1 pair	1,400
Rubber shoes (men's)	1 pair	2,500
Tennis shoes (CC)	1 pair	4,000
c. <u>Cloth:</u>		
Cotton cloth	20 feet	2,300
Calico	1 bolt (no length given)	30,000
Cloth (no kind given) (high quality)	1 bolt (no length given)	40,000
d. <u>Miscellaneous:</u>		
Gasoline (S)	1 drum	40,000
Mobile oil	1 large mal	8,000
Rice paper	1 kun	30,000
Fountain pen (CC)	1	2,500
Toilet soap (CC)	(no quantity given)	600
Laundry soap (made in P'yongyang)	(no quantity given)	350
Laundry soap (made in Hungnam)	(no quantity given)	500
Matches (CC)	1 package	150 to 300

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Matches (US)	1 package	600 to 700
Rubber	1 kwan	30,000
Tire with tube (S)	1	50,000
Bicycle	1	40,000
Watch (high quality)	1	100,000
Watch (ordinary quality)	1	35,000
Radio (4 tubes)	1	3,000 to 4,000
Radio-phonograph	1	100,000
Phonograph	1	35,000

Haeju City⁵

2. On 13 October 1952, food and commodity prices in the Haeju area were as follows. The rate of exchange was 7 North Korean won to 1 South Korean won.

a. Food:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Consumers Union Price</u>	<u>Free Market Price</u>
Rice	1 small mal		2,400 NK won
Millet	1 small mal		1,700
Wheat	1 small mal		1,300
Flour	1 kun		250
Soy Sauce	1 large bottle	120 NK won	200
Potatoes	1 kun		50
Pork	1 kun		800
Chicken	1		2,000
Eggs	10		400
Pears	1 kilogram		800
Wine (sochu)	1 large bottle	150	200

b. Clothing:

Men's rubber shoes	1 pair	350	1,000
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c. Cloth:

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Consumers Union Price</u>	<u>Free Market Price</u>
Cotton cloth	20 yards ⁴	3,000	3,000
d. Medicines:			
Aspirin	1 tablet		20
Sulfa	1 tablet		80
Sulfaguanadine	1 tablet		80
Streptomycin	1 bottle (number of units not given)		5,000
Penicillin (US)	1 bottle (number of units not given)		1,800
e. Miscellaneous:			
Toothbrush	1	150	150
Toothbrush (CC)	1	500	500
Tooth powder	(no quantity given)	150	150
Tooth powder	(no quantity given)		700
Gold (24-karet)	1 don ⁶		8,000
Silver	1 kwan		5,000

Haeju Area⁵

3. On 25 October 1952, food and commodity prices in the Haeju area were as follows:

a. Food:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Rice (unpolished)	1 small mal	1,250
Millet	1 small mal	900
Wheat	1 small mal	800
Buckwheat	1 small mal	500
Chinese broom corn	1 small mal	600
Soy beans	1 small mal	600
Red beans	1 small mal	1,200
Potatoes	1 small mal	450

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Sweet potatoes	1 pound	34
Radishes	2.28 pounds	70
Cabbage	2.28 pounds	100
Onions	2.28 pounds	200
Apples	1	20
Pears	1	30
Persimmons	1	10
Dried persimmons	10	150
Jujube fruit	1 small mal	1,000
Chestnuts	1 small mal	600
Beef	22.24 ounces (approximately 1 kun)	800
Pork	22.24 ounces	600
Chicken	1	1,200
Eggs	10	400
Mackerel	1	150
Swordfish	1	800
Cod	20	1,100
Eels	1 kilogram	800
Pickled clams	1 large mal	8,000
Seaweed	2.28 pounds	2,400
b. <u>Restaurant Prices:</u>		
Bread	1 piece	15
Steamed bread	1 piece	25
Noodle soup	1 bowl	150
Boiled rice	1 bowl	200
c. <u>Clothing:</u>		
Army trousers (US)	1 pair	8,000 to 10,000
Army jacket (US)	1	4,000 to 6,000

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Army underwear (US)	1 suit	6,000 to 7,000
Knitted underwear (C)	1 suit	6,000 to 7,000
Rubber shoes	1 pair	1,700 to 2,500
Black rubber shoes (women's)	1 pair	1,300 to 2,000
White rubber shoes	1 pair	2,500 to 3,000
Sport shoes	1 pair	1,800 to 2,500
Sport shoes (CC)	1 pair	2,850 to 3,500
Basketball shoes (CC)	1 pair	3,500 to 4,500
Laced Boots (C)	1 pair	3,500 to 4,500
Socks	1 pair	150 to 350
Socks (CC)	1 pair	300 to 400
Socks (C)	1 pair	350 to 600
d. <u>Cloth and Towels:</u>		
White cotton cloth	20 feet	2,500 to 3,000
Colored cotton cloth	20 feet	2,800 to 3,200
White cambric (S)	1 foot	300
Violet cambric (S)	1 foot	280
Coat cloth (C)	1 meter	2,750 to 3,860
Korean silk	40 feet	8,000
Japanese silk (J)	1 foot	2,000
Japanese velvet (J)	1 foot	3,000
Macao cloth (M)	1 foot	12,000 to 16,000

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Hemp	1 foot	180 to 230
Towel	1	250 to 400
Towel (CC)	1	600 to 1,500
Towel (C)	1	600 to 1,200
e. Medicines:		
Sulfadiazine (US)	1 tablet	40
Sulfadiazine	1 tablet	30
Aspirin-phenacetin-caffeine (US)	1 tablet	30
Aspirin-phenacetin-caffeine	1 tablet	25
Penicillin (US)	1 (sic)	1,200 to 1,500
Penicillin (S)	1 (sic)	1,000 to 1,200
Penicillin (J)	1 (sic)	1,200 to 1,800
Mycin (sic) (US)	1	2,800 to 4,000
Mycin (sic) (S)	1	2,500 to 3,000
f. Cosmetics and Notions:		
Toothpaste (CC)	1 tube	300 to 1,000
Toothpaste	1 tube	150 to 180
Toothpaste (S)	1 tube	350 to 800
Toothbrush (CC)	1	600 to 1,200
Toothbrush (C)	1	700 to 1,200
Toothbrush (S)	1	600 to 1,200
Toilet soap (CC)	1 bar	600 to 1,200
Toilet soap	1 bar	200 to 250
Toilet soap (US)	1 bar	800
Laundry soap	1 bar	300

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Laundry soap (CC)	1 bar	250
g. <u>Smoking Supplies:</u>		
Cigarettes (CC) (T'ao Sheng Chan brand)	1 package	300
Cigarettes (CC) (Navy brand)	1 package	250
Cigarettes (CC) (Sheng Ch'an brand)	1 package	250
Cigarettes (CC) (Parachute brand)	1 package	250
Cigarettes (CC) (Seagull brand)	1 package	150
Cigarettes (CC) (Longevity and Happiness brand)	1 package	80
Matches	1 packages	300
Matches	1 package	350 to 400
h. <u>Photographic Supplies:</u>		
Photographic paper (J)	36 sheets	50,000 to 60,000
Film (US)	60 meters	450,000 to 600,000

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25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] quoted two price lists from the P'yongyang area, for July and August 1952. The August list came as this October report. A limited comparison of food prices in these months can be made. However, its value is uncertain because specific information regarding quality is not included, i.e., rice in the August list is described only as "rice," while in the October list rice is described as "rice, hulled." The millet in the July list is described as "millet (yellow)" while in the October list is described as merely "millet." Millet and rice are sold in a number of forms.

25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. The country of origin is indicated by the following letter symbols appearing in parentheses directly following the name of the item: CC, Communist China; S, USSR; US, United States; C, Czechoslovakia; M, Macao; and J, Japan. Where no letter symbol appears, the country of origin was Korea or the source did not give it.

25X1A 3. [REDACTED] Comment. Western equivalents of Korean units of measurement used in this report are: large mal, a little under 30 pounds of rice or one-half bushel, and for liquid measurement about 18 liters or almost

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four gallons; small mal, half of a large mal; kun, 1.32 pounds or 600 grams; kwan, 8.27 pounds or 3.75 kilograms.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. Twenty feet was probably intended.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. Note that different sources presented the price lists in paragraphs 2 and 3. Possibly paragraph 3 reflects the lower food prices prevailing in rural areas.

25X1A 6. [REDACTED] Comment. A momme or 3.75 grams was probably intended.

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